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Prince of Peace, nor His blessed gospel of peace. Before nations shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, the mountain of the Lord's house must be established in the top of the mountains, and all nations and people say, 'Come, ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

We deeply regret to find so much reason to characterize some of the utterances at the late Peace Congress at Lausanne, Switzerland, as infidel in spirit and tendency. Of that Congress we cannot speak with confidence, not having yet seen any full account of its proceedings; but it should be borne in mind, that it was not strictly nor properly a *Peace Congress*. It did, indeed, denounce war; but the grand aim of the three Congresses held in Switzerland, is *a political reconstruction of all Europe*, changing its present governments into a confederacy or republic akin to the United States.

THE DRUM.

I hate the drum's discordant sound,
Parading round, and round, and round;
To thoughtless youth it pleasure yields,
And lures from cities and from fields,
To sell their liberty for charms
Of tawdry lace and glitt'ring arms;
And when Ambition's voice commands,
To march, and fight, and fall, in foreign lands.

I hate the drum's discordant sound,
Parading round, and round, and round;
To me it talks of ravag'd plains,
Of burning towns, and ruin'd swains,
And mangled limbs, and dying groans,
And widows' tears, and orphans' moans;
And all that mis'ry's hand bestows,
To fill the catalogue of human woes.

JOHN SCOTT.

PRESENT CONDITION OF EUROPE.

The present armed condition of Europe is a matter of general lamentation. It is felt to be an affront to reason, a scandal to Christianity, a reproach to civilization. The number of men that, under all designations, are trained to the use of arms in Europe cannot be estimated at less than six or seven millions. The cost in all ways of these armed men, and of the military establishments, of which they form part, is so enormous that they cannot be stated without having the appearance of gross exaggeration. The practical effects of this system are deplorable. It embarrasses the finances of States, and imposes upon the people a burden both of taxation and military service which is almost too heavy to be borne. It is a fruitful source both of misery and demoralization to society; while, far from being any guarantee of peace, it engenders such constant disquietude and mutual distrust between the nations, as to render peace, in the true sense of the word, all but impossible; for even when actual war is not raging, it is not peace, but only an armed truce that Europe enjoys.

Is there no remedy for this great and constantly-increasing evil? It is thought by many intelligent and benevolent persons that the present is not an unpropitious moment for asking this question. None of the European nations are at war. Both governments and peoples disclaim, and, doubtless with perfect sincerity, all wish or intention of engaging in any war of conquest or aggression. Why, then, maintain, and even increase, these ponderous forces? For the tendency of the present system of rivalry in armaments is continually to grow even in a time of peace.

Two things are required: 1. Some fixed and generally accepted method of Arbitration, as a means of settling international differences, so as to diminish, and, let us hope, ultimately to supersede, the necessity of having recourse to the decision of the sword. 2. A common agreement between the great powers for a mutual and simultaneous reduction of armaments.

The difficulty seems to be to decide who is to take the initiative as respects these measures. But is it not possible that there should be a concerted movement among the principal nations of Europe in this direction? It is suggested that if the question of Arbitration and of the Armaments could be brought before the several legislatures at or about the same time, the effect could not fail to be highly advantageous. It would give expression, in the most legitimate and authoritative form, to the strong feeling of dissatisfaction with the present system of armed rivalry and mutual suspicion, and all the incalculable evils that follow in its train, which beyond all doubt largely prevails among the people in every country in Europe. It might encourage the governments to take some practical steps for at least mitigating and moderating so serious an evil, by showing them that, in any effort of that nature they might make, they would be supported by an imposing array of public opinion, not only in their own, but in every other nation. And, in any case, if it did no other good, the mere raising of a discussion would at least call attention to the evil, and set thoughtful and generous minds to work to seek a remedy. — *London Herald of Peace.*

REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS. In confirmation of what we have stated on preceding pages of this number, we may say that the London Peace Society has sent its Secretary, HENRY RICHARD, M.P., to visit, in a private way, the chief governments on the Continent, and ascertain what can be wisely and hopefully attempted to secure a partial proportionate armament. The press on both sides of the Atlantic has lately alluded to the subject; and in our next we will state the progress and prospects of this movement, showing that Peace Societies have had a leading agency in this result.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

ENGLAND. — The British Government persists in its refusal to release the Fenian prisoners, and the Irish Amnesty Associations there express their unanimous displeasure. The general feeling in England is, that nothing will satisfy the Fenian sympathizers in Ireland or elsewhere. Geo. Peabody's death, Nov, 4th, drew forth strong general expressions of sorrow; funeral services, by order of the Queen, were held in Westminster Abbey, as the highest honor that could be paid to his memory, and a public ship was ordered to bring his remains to America. Our own government also ordered one of its steamers from the Mediterranean to accompany his remains.

SPAIN. — No King yet chosen, nor likely to be very soon; but the Cortes seem more and more inclined to select the young Duke of Genoa, a lad of sixteen now at school in England. The deputies who had withdrawn for a time, had returned, and denied their complicity in the recent revolt, or conspiracy with the Cubans. The island of Porto Rico had submitted to the Cortes its Constitution as a province of Spain, and was entertained with favor. It promises many important reforms.

ITALY — has granted an amnesty to recent political offenders. **AUSTRIA** — has suppressed the insurrection in Dalmatia.

TURKEY. — A wide-spread conspiracy reported in some of her northern provinces. Her difficulty with the Egyptian Vice Roy is not yet settled; but England and France are reported as tendering their friendly services for that purpose.

SUEZ CANAL — was opened Nov. 21, when the inauguration fleet, of 45 vessels averaging a tonnage of 1,000 tons each, passed the whole length of the canal. The ceremonies were imposing. The Emperor of Austria, the Empress of France, the Prince of Prussia, a son of the King of Italy, and many other notabilities were present. The complete success of the great work was regarded as exceeding all expectations. A signal epoch in commerce and general progress.

CUBA — remains very much as usual, but with an increased feeling that the rebellion is hopeless, and will ere long cease. Despite the efforts of its friends in this country, our government will doubtless continue to abstain from any interference in its behalf.

CONGRESS — was to open its session December 6, and, from preliminary utterances of the press, with the prospect of very important action being taken especially on Taxation, the Tariff, Currency and Reconstruction.